

Adequate Health Care Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2006
1:50 PM – 3:10 PM

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street, Room N-502
Chicago, Illinois

Illinois Public Act 93-0973, formerly House Bill 2268, creates the Health Care Justice Act and encourages the State of Illinois to implement a health care plan that provides access to a full range of preventive, acute, and long-term health care services; maintains and improves the quality of health care services offered to Illinois residents, and meets other criteria. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is required, subject to an appropriation or availability of other funds, to enter into a contract with an "independent research entity" experienced in assessing health care reforms, financing, and care delivery models. The provisions of this legislation establish an "Adequate Health Care Task Force" with 29 voting members: five to be appointed by the Governor, and six appointments made by each of the four leaders of the General assembly (the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader, and the President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader). The Directors of the Departments of Public Health, Public Aid, Aging, and Insurance, along with the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, are to be invited to meetings of the "Adequate Health Care Task Force," but are not included in the Task Force's membership. The Department of Public Health is required to be "the primary agency in providing administrative support" to the Task Force.

This legislation provides for public hearings in each Illinois Congressional District, and a website detailing the work of the Task Force, accessible through the Governor's internet home page, is to be established and maintained. Printed copies of Task Force information are to be made available for persons who lack access to the Internet website. A Task Force report, detailing recommendations for a health care access plan as specified within the legislation, is to be submitted to the General Assembly by March 15, 2006. The bill encourages the General Assembly to consider legislation enacting the Task Force recommendations by December 31, 2006. The Act took effect July 1, 2004.

Steering Committee Members in Attendance: David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair; Joseph Roberts; Dr. Quentin Young

Steering Committee Members Absent: Ruth Rothstein (Jim Duffett, proxy)

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff: David Carvalho; Mike Jones; Ashley Walter

Guests: Megan Meagher

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair, called the Adequate Health Care Task Force Steering Committee meeting to order at approximately 1:50PM.

II. Introduction of Members

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Lerner asked Steering Committee members and IDPH staff members to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee to consider approving the Steering Committee meeting minutes from January 25, 2006. Joe Roberts motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Quentin Young seconded the motion. All members (4) were in favor.

IV. Discussion of the Outcomes of the Adequate Health Care Task Force Meeting

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee how they thought the prior Task Force meeting went. Dr. Lerner thought that the morning's presentations were good and, as usual, raised more questions.

VII. Other Issues/New Business

David Koehler proposed that it is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to determine what the role of public policy should be in the health care system in Illinois. Dr. Lerner added that determining the criteria from which to judge different proposals will be one of the Task Force's most difficult challenges. David Carvalho asked the Steering Committee to consider whether the plans developed by the Task Force can cover many more people while preserving most aspects of the current system. Put another way, everything about the status quo cannot be preserved if more people are to be covered, and the participants in the current system need to acknowledge this. Mr. Koehler suggested that the Task Force participate in a collaborative negotiating process in order to identify individual interests when examining different proposals. Dr. Lerner agreed and added that the evaluation of various proposals should not be done from an ideological perspective. Mr. Koehler suggested that the Task Force work towards a comprehensive system by looking at the root causes of why people are uninsured in Illinois.

Dr. Lerner suggested that the Task Force carefully frame the question to be posed to the Task Force during the negotiation process and to be deliberate and precise in its use of language throughout the process. Dr. Lerner further suggested that certain terms (such as health, health status, etc.) be defined at the onset of the negotiation process so that all Task Force members begin and remain on the same page in terms of language. Jim Duffett and Dr. Lerner stressed the importance of the proposal being a true system – that is, it must be able to handle fluctuations and ensure that those who are currently insured remain insured.

After much discussion, the Steering Committee elected to utilize an interest-based negotiation process to facilitate the Task Force's deliberations on various policy proposals. The Steering Committee felt that such a process would allow for each Task Force member's interests to be considered and would help to build consensus throughout the process - even though the Task Force may elect to present more than one recommendation to the General Assembly. As the chair and vice-chair of the Task Force, Dr. Lerner and Mr. Koehler will facilitate the process. Dr. Lerner asked IDPH staff to send out documents describing this process to the Steering Committee prior to its next meeting. Dr. Lerner also requested that IDPH staff work with Mr. Koehler to frame the question that will be used as the basis of the negotiation process.

The Steering Committee also addressed concerns raised by Task Force members regarding the dates and times of future Task Force meetings. Joe Roberts suggested that the time of future meetings was a more critical issue than the day of the week on which meetings are to be held. Per the suggestion of several Task Force members, the Steering Committee elected to hold Task Force meetings from 10:30am to 4:30pm beginning in May 2006. Regarding what day of the week meetings should be held, Mr. Roberts suggested that the priority be to have Task Force members attend, not IDPH staff. After a brief discussion, the Steering Committee decided to have the Task Force meet on Tuesdays beginning in May 2006 as originally planned. Dr. Lerner asked that IDPH staff prepare a framework for future Steering Committee meetings similar to the one created for Task Force meetings to help guide the work of the Steering Committee.

Dr. Lerner suggested that at the March Steering Committee meeting the Steering Committee review the framework developed by IDPH staff for future Steering Committee meetings, meet with the research entity selected by IDPH, if they are available, and further discuss the logistics of utilizing an interest-based negotiation process with the Task Force.

VIII. Comments from Non-Steering Committee Task Force Members

None.

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Lerner adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 PM.

Action:

- IDPH staff will distribute documents describing interest-based negotiations, as well as the framing question for the process, to Steering Committee members prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- IDPH staff will develop a framework for future Steering Committee meetings.
- IDPH staff will prepare meeting minutes prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Next Meeting:

The Steering Committee will meet immediately after the Task Force meeting (approximately 1:30PM) on Wednesday, March 29th. This meeting will take place in room N-502 of the Michael A. Bilandic Building located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago, IL.

The following Steering Committee meeting will take place immediately after the Task Force meeting (approximately 1:30PM) on Wednesday, April 26th. This meeting will take place in room N-502 of the Michael A. Bilandic Building located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago, IL.